Expansion of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

929. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRASEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has acquired land for the steel plant expansion in Visakhaparnam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what compensation Government has paid to the landlords for this purpose;

(d) whether Government is providing jobs for atleast one person in each household who have given their land for this expansion;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(0 if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRYOF STEEL(DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) In view of (a) does not arise.

Services provided by various units of Steel Ministry

930. SHR1RUDRANARAYANPANY:
MISSANUSUIYAUIKEY:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of countries to which various units of his Ministry has provided services or sold goods, unit-wise (like SAIL, Meakan, etc.) details thereof;

(b) the amount earned by above;

(c) whether any unit/units are running in loss; if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken for their improvement;

(d) whether targets have been fixed for these units in the eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(e) the estimated number of engineers and other employees to get employment in the steel industry during Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRYOF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) and (b) A Statement is annexed *(See* below).

(c) Hindustan Steelworks Construction Ltd. (HSCL) is a loss making unit it has been incurring losses mainly due to interest on Government loans taken by the company for implementation of VRS. M/s. A.F. Ferguson was engaged by HSCL to prepare Revival-cum-restructuring package for the company. Based on the recommendations of M/s. A. F. Ferguson, Ministry of Steel has submitted a proposal to Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE) on 11-1-2008.

(d) Yes, Sir. Targets for production and other parameters are fixed by the Memoranda of Undertakings (MoUs) signed with the Ministry of Steel every year.

(e) There is no clear estimate now available of the number of engineers and other employees, who would get employment in the steel industry during the Eleventh Five Year Plan.

Statement

Details regarding services provided to other countries

SI No	Name of the Unit	Number of countries to which services provided	Amount earned
1.	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	35	Rrs. 2112.76 Crores (During the years 2006-07 and 2007-08 (upto Dec, 2007)
2.	National Mineral Development Corporation	3	Rs. 1366.30 Crores -do-
3.	Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd.	1	Rs. 604.80 Crores -do-
4.	Sponge Iron India Ltd.	1	Rs. 2.72 Crores -do-
5.	Rashtriya I spat Nigam Ltd.	26	Rs. 799.68 Crores (During the yeau 2006-07 and 2007-08 (upto January, 2008)
6.	MSTCLtd.	1	Rs. 1.50 Crores For the year 2007-08 (upto Jan., 2008)
7.	MECONLtd.	12	Rs. 1.80 Crores (during last three years).

Control on prices of steel

931. SHRI DHARAM PALSABHARWAL: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Steel Alliance (ISA) has requested Government to ensure that steel producers get iron ore at competitive price to keep steel prices under check;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions of ISA and the action taken by Government on these suggestions;

(c) whether predictions for long terms prices of iron ore is not very favourable; and

(d) if so, steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): ..(a) and (b) The Indian Steel Alliance (ISA) has requested the Governmenf to initiate steps for conservation of iron ore in the country for the long term benefit of the domestic steel industry. The suggestions given by ISA *inter-alia* include imposition of ceiling and export cess on export of iron ore. The Government has already taken necessary steps in imposing export duty on iron ore at the rate of Rs. 300 per tonne on iron ore lumps and Rs. 300 per tonne on iron ore fines with more than 62% Fe content and Rs 50 per tonne on less than 62% Fe content.

(c) and (d) The Growth in demand for steel has seen an up-trend in the spot prices of iron ore during the last one year and the trend is likely to continue, concurrent with the growth in demand for steel, Since the iron ore is a freely tradable commodity its prices are determined